

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ESTABLISHING  
COMMUNICATIONS WITH A DATA STORAGE SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Mechanisms and techniques allow for the establishment of secure, authenticated packet-based communications sessions between a computer system and a processor, such as a service processor, within a data storage system. The computer system is configured with a connection process connection process that operates under user control and that can establish a first packet communications session to a data communications device such as a router within a first computer network such as a vendor computer network. The connection process connection process can then cause the data communications device to establish a second packet communications session between the data communications device and the processor within the data storage system in a secure, reliable and authenticated manner. Using a unique handshaking technique, the connection process connection process in the computer system, the data communications device, and a service process operating in a service processor on the data storage system can negotiate the establishment of the packet communications sessions to allow applications in these components of to make use of standardized communications techniques such as TCP/IP.